AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A protease selected from the group consisting of

a. a protease comprising an amino acid sequence which has at least ~~73~~85% identity with the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO: 2; ~~and~~

b. a protease which is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which hybridises under low stringency conditions with

(i) a complementary strand of the nucleic acid sequence shown as nucleotides 127 to 804 of SEQ ID NO:1, or

(ii) a subsequence of (i) of at least 100 nucleotides; and

c. a protease which has 1 to 50, preferably 1 to 40, or 1 to 30, more preferably 1-20, most preferably 1-10 amino acid substitutions compared to the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A protease according to claim 1 having an amino acid sequence which has more than ~~75.0%, or more than 80.0%, or more than~~ 85.0%, or more than 90.0%, or more than 92.0%, or more than 94.0%, or more than 96.0%, or more than 97.0%, or more than 98.0%, or more than 99.0% identity with the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 3. (Original) A protease according to claim 1, which comprises the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 4. (Original) A protease according to claim 1, which consists of the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) A protease according to claim 1, wherein the protease is a variant of a protease having the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids -25 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2 comprising a substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of one or more amino acid residues.

Claim 6.(Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently amended) A protease according to claim ~~6~~ 1 having ~~more than 75.0%, or more than 80.0%, or~~ more than 85.0%, or more than 90.0%, or more than 92.0%, or more than 94.0%, or more than 96.0%, or more than 97.0%, or more than 98.0%, or more than 99.0% identity with the mature part of the protease encoded by the protease encoding part of the polynucleotide cloned into a plasmid fragment present in Escherichia coli deposited under the accession No. DSM 15940.

Claim 8.(Canceled)

Claim 9.(Canceled)

Claim 10. (Original) A protease according to claim 1, which is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which hybridises under medium stringency conditions, preferably under high stringency conditions, with

(i) a complementary strand of the nucleic acid sequence shown as nucleotides 127 to 804 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or

(ii) a subsequence of (i) of at least 100 nucleotides.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) A protease according to claim 1, where the protease is a trypsin like protease.

Claim 12. (Original) A protease according to any of the preceding claims, where the protease – when tested in "Example V Stability in detergent" - has a residual activity of at least 50% after storage at 35ºC.

Claim 13. (Original) A protease according to claim 11, where the protease has a residual activity of at least 55% after storage at 35ºC, such as at least 60% after storage at 35ºC, more preferably at least 65% after storage at 35ºC.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes for the protease defined in claim 1.

Claim 15.(Canceled)

Claim 16. (Original) A nucleic acid sequence according to claim 14, having a nucleic acid sequence which has at least 86%, such as at least 87%, e.g. at least 88%, preferably at least 89%, such as at least 90%, e.g. at least 91%, more preferably at least 92%, such as at least 93%, e.g. at least 94%, most preferably at least 95%, such as at least 96%, e.g. at least 97%, in particular at least 98%, preferably at least 99% identity with the nucleic acid sequence shown as nucleotides 52 to 804 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid construct comprising the nucleic acid sequence of claim 14 operably linked to one or more control sequences capable of directing the expression of the protease in a suitable host.

Claim 18. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid construct of claim 17, a promoter, and transcriptional and translational stop signals.

Claim 19. (Original) A recombinant host cell comprising the nucleic acid construct of claim 17.

Claim 20. (Original) A host cell according to claim 19, which is a fungus or yeast, preferably a filamentous fungus, especially an Aspergillus.

Claim 21.(Canceled)

Claim 22.(Canceled)

Claim 23. (Previously presented) A method for producing the protease according to claim 1, the method comprising:

f. cultivating a recombinant host cell as defined in any of claims 19-22 under conditions conducive to the production of the protease; and

g. recovering the protease.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) A cleaning or detergent composition, preferably a laundry or dishwash composition, comprising the protease according to claim 1.

Claim 25. (Original) A composition according to claim 24, which additionally comprises a cellulase, lipase, cutinase, oxidoreductase, another protease, an amylase or a mixture thereof.

Claim 26. (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Previously presented) A method for cleaning or washing a hard surface or laundry, the method comprising contacting the hard surface or the laundry with the composition defined in claim 25.